

Comments on Chapter 1.1.1 - General definitions

General comment

We suggest you remove the word “means” from all definitions that start with this word. Since these definitions are listed in the Chapter of “General Definitions”, the use of the word “means” is redundant and makes it harder to read. As a point of reference, dictionaries do not start with defining their words in this manner.

Specific Comments

Current proposed language by the OIE:

Surveillance

means the investigation of a given *population* or *sub-population* to detect the presence of a pathogenic agent or *disease*, the frequency and type of *surveillance* will be determined by the epidemiology of the pathogenic agent or *disease*, and the desired outputs.

Proposed Change

Surveillance

the investigation of a given *population* or *sub-population* to detect the presence of a pathogenic agent or *disease*, the frequency and type of *surveillance* will be determined by the epidemiology of the pathogenic agent or *disease*, and **by the objectives for performing the investigation.**

Rationale: desired outputs is not the basis for surveillance. The frequency and type of surveillance should be determined by the epidemiology and the experts conducting the investigation.

Current proposed language by the OIE:

Emerging disease

means a new *infection* resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known *infection* spreading to a new geographic area or *population*, or a previously unrecognized pathogenic agent or *disease* diagnosed for the first time.

Proposed Change

Emerging disease

a new *illness* resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known *illness* spreading to a new geographic area or **new *population***, or a previously unrecognized pathogenic agent or ***an illness*** diagnosed for the first time **in a geographic area or population.**

Rationale: We suggest this definition delete *infection* and replace it with **illness** because we do not know whether the “emerging” event is caused by an infectious agent or not. It would be more appropriate to call this an illness until one can determine what is causing the event. We also suggest that you add the word “**new**” in front of population to help clarify the event. The insertion of words “in a geographic area or population” qualifies *where* the previously unrecognised pathogenic agent or illness was initially diagnosed.

Current proposed language by the OIE:

Monitoring

means the continuous investigation of a given population or *sub-population*, and its environment, to detect changes in the prevalence of a *disease* or characteristics of a pathogenic agent.

Proposed Change

Monitoring

the **ongoing or periodic** investigation of a given population or *sub-population*, and its environment, to detect changes in the prevalence of a *disease* or characteristics of a pathogenic agent.

Rationale: in the English language, the word “continuous” is unrealistic. What is more feasible is that monitoring be “periodic”. Replacing “continuous” with “ongoing or periodic” will address all the acceptable monitoring situations.

Current proposed language

Official control programme

means a programme which is approved, and managed or supervised by the *Veterinary Administration* of a country for the purpose of controlling a vector, pathogen or *disease* by specific measures applied throughout that country, or within a zone or zones of that country.

Proposed change

Official control programme

means a programme which is approved, and managed or supervised by the *Veterinary Administration* of a country for the purpose of controlling a vector, pathogen or *disease* by specific measures applied throughout that country, or within a zone or zones (syn: region or regions) of that country.

Rationale: Chapter 1.3.5. entitled Zoning, Regionalization and Compartmentalization, Article 1.3.5.1. contains a proposed new sentence “For the purposes of this *Terrestrial Code*, ‘zoning’ and ‘regionalisation’ have the same meaning. ‘Zone’ and ‘region’ are the parent words for ‘zoning’ and ‘regionalisation’

Current proposed language by the OIE:

Outbreak of disease

means the an occurrence of one of the diseases in the OIE List in OIE List A or List B in an agricultural establishment, breeding establishment or premises, including all buildings and all adjoining premises, where *animals* are present.

Proposed Change

Outbreak of disease

the an occurrence of one of the diseases in the OIE List in OIE List A or List B in an agricultural establishment, breeding establishment or premises, including all buildings and all **contact** premises, where *animals* are present.

Rationale: This suggested change would need require the addition of a new definition to the Chapter on “General Definitions”.

Contact premises

an agricultural establishment, breeding establishment or premises that is in contact with a known disease affected premises either due to immediate proximity (adjoining) or to direct movement of animals or fomites from the affected premises that could have spread the disease causing agent.

Rationale: in the “outbreak of disease” definition we suggest deleting the words “adjoining premises” and replacing it with the words “contact premises” because not only are “adjoining” premises at high risk of becoming exposed to the outbreak agent but also all “contact” premises. Therefore, the change is recommended and the definition for contact premises suggested.

Current proposed language

Vaccination

means the successful immunisation of susceptible animals through the administration of vaccine comprising antigens appropriate to the *disease* to be prevented.

Proposed change

Vaccination

the **successful** immunisation of susceptible animals through the administration of vaccine comprising antigens appropriate to the *disease* to be prevented.

Rationale: “successful” is a confusing descriptor of immunization and without more definitive refinement is left open to interpretation. For example, would 50% of susceptible animals mounting an immune response be ‘successful’ or would it need to be

60%, 75%, or some other number. Perhaps, the word “successful” should be left out of the definition.